

TSAC Update

Helping Students Achieve Their Goals Since 1974

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Successful Financial Aid Training Workshop to be Repeated

We had a great turnout for July's new financial aid staff training workshop. We had 46 participants and interest from



people who had scheduling conflicts. The workshop is being repeated on Sept. 28, 2007. Anyone who couldn't attend before is encouraged to participate. The sessions for the

day include 2008-09 FAFSA overview and changes, verification process, student eligibility, state grants and scholarships and lottery scholarship updates. In addition to the informational sessions, e*GrandS training will be included as the last session of the day.

The training will be given at TSAC's Nashville office at 404 James Robertson Parkway. Refreshments will be served from 8:30 a.m. to 9:00 a.m. The training session will start at 9:00 a.m. The state grants and scholarships and lottery sessions will start at 1:00 p.m. Lunch will be provided. Seating is limited.

Please R.S.V.P. Karen Myers your plans for you or your staff to attend the workshop. The deadline for reserving space is Sept. 20, 2007. Karen can be contacted by calling 800-291-2675 ext.134 or at her direct line (615) 253-7444. Her e-mail address is Karen.myers@state.tn.us.

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TSAC EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES

The Tennessee Student Assistance Corporation has several employment opportunities currently available.

Current Employment Opportunities:

- Associate Executive Director for Communication Services
- Student Information Systems Analyst
- Telephone Counselor

Please visit our website (<http://www.state.tn.us/tsac/employment.htm>) to learn more.

A Message from the Director's Corner

Do you have plans for Thursday afternoon, September 27th? I hope you will join us in Nashville for the TSAC Board of Directors' fall meeting. We will start at 1:00 p.m. in the Executive Conference room on the ground level of the State Capitol building, and the meeting should last about two hours.



The complete agenda will be available on-line a week or two before the meeting. Likely topics include proposed rule changes to three TSAC programs, TSAC's 2008-09 budget request, and an exciting new revenue opportunity concerning the sale of rehabilitated loans. Grant, scholarship, and loan program updates will be provided, and we'll learn what's new in communications and outreach.

I look forward to seeing you then!

Bob Ruble

TSAC Accountant, Worker Bee and Cancer Survivor



TSAC may be a nonprofit corporation, but it has to keep fiscally fit just like a for-profit company. One of the accountants who is instrumental in helping balance the books is Sue Tacker, who manages the agency's purchasing and General Ledger items.

Sue, who has been with the agency since 2001, got her start in higher education by working in the area of student loans for First American Bank. She said she can remember when getting a student loan required the student to have an in-person interview with

a bank official. "Thank goodness those days are over," she added.

Originally from Jamestown, Tenn., which Sue calls "God's country," she and her husband Lin have been married for 24 years and have a son, Franklin, who just turned 20, who works at Kroger. She says her nephew, Blaine, who has been living with her family for a little while will graduate from the Davidson County Policy Academy this September. The family pet is a 10-year-old black-and-tan dachshund named Gingerbelle. Sue and her husband are worker bees as both have two jobs—she moonlights at a retail clothing store and her husband sells car batteries and owns an Army Surplus store.

Sue is a huge Julia Roberts fan. "I've probably seen *Pretty Woman* about a hundred times," she joked. It's probably because she can really appreciate a comeback story. Sue had stage I breast cancer, but thankfully recovered and has been cancer-free for four years as of this November. A strong advocate for cancer awareness and research, she participates in many charities and fundraisers such as the American Cancer Society's Making Strides Against Breast Cancer.

Comments from Sue:

"I love TSAC for giving me the opportunity to stay in education. It's a good feeling to work where so many students are being helped to achieve their dreams. I also feel like I am at home because I have worked with so many of the TSAC employees during my student loan days in banking."

TSAC Bids Adieu to Key Advocate



Jeri Fields, Associate Executive Director for Communication Services and one of TSAC's biggest advocates, will be leaving TSAC soon for a demanding role at the University of Arkansas at Fort Smith.

"I really couldn't say no to the position at U of A," said Jeri, who will be the university's Director of Marketing and Communications. "I'm looking forward to getting back to a college campus and this position will provide some new marketing challenges and the opportunity to deal more closely with students."

Jeri got her start in higher education at Western Kentucky University's institutional research office as a research associate. She eventually enrolled in the master's program there and in February 2003 she took a job with the Tennessee Higher Education Commission. It was there, serving as Assistant Director of Policy, Planning and Research, that she became affiliated with TSAC as interim public information officer in November 2004. She has served as TSAC's communications services leader since October 2005.

Her contribution to the agency is enormous. Thanks to her strong leadership and advocacy, TSAC can boast the following:

- The creation and management of a successful education and outreach campaign that includes print, web, television and radio media, a call center and four regional offices.
- The re-branding of publications, website, presentations and recreation of the agency newsletter, the TSAC Update.
- College Goal Sunday marketing, including a radio public service announcement featuring 33 state legislators and a television commercial aired on Comcast.
- Partnering the agency's public education efforts with those of local, state and federal agencies such as GearUP, CollegeForTN, SREB Alliance and the Department of Education.

"We've gotten a lot done, but there's still a great deal to accomplish if TSAC is going to achieve the mission charged by its board of increasing the number of students from underserved populations receiving financial aid to attend college," said Jeri. "It's been a rewarding challenge and I wish the staff all the best."

We are sad to see Jeri go, but wish her great joy and success in her next adventure.



TSAC Updates TELS Rules

In an effort to simplify the TELS rules, TSAC has made changes that have been reviewed and approved by the Attorney General's office. Because there were no substantive changes to the TELS program during the past legislative session, it was an ideal time to make the changes. The changes

consisted of making the rules mirror the language of Tennessee, code.

The proposed rules were also reviewed by the TASFAA Advisory Committee to TSAC. Once the rules have been finalized, they will be made available on e*GRandS and www.CollegePaysTN.com.

TSAC Welcomes New NGS Service Representative

Marea (pronounced Maria, just spelled differently) Herrington comes to the TSAC office from the

to working for Ole Miss, Marea spent time in Knoxville working for EdAmerica and EdFinancial Services. Outside



of work, Marea is involved with the American Legion Auxiliary and the Tennessee Girls State Program where she has worked as a counselor and staff member since being a delegate from McGavock High School in 1990. Her hobbies include reading, cooking, traveling, and SEC sports. She is currently training for her first 10K (Marine Corp 10K) in October, 2007.

University of Mississippi where she served in the Office of Financial Aid and the Office of Outreach. Marea is a native of Nashville and attended Mississippi State University and the University of Tennessee, Knoxville. Prior

If you have not already heard from Marea, she will be working with schools and lenders on a regular basis representing TSAC. If you miss meeting her on a school or lender visit, look for her at the upcoming TASFAA Conference.

Upcoming Events & Conferences

- ▶ 09/27/07
TSAC Board of Directors Meeting
Nashville, TN
- ▶ 09/28/07
TSAC Financial Aid Training
Nashville, TN
- ▶ 10/21/07 - 10/23/07
TASFAA Fall Conference
Franklin, TN
- ▶ 02/17/08 - 02/20/08
SASFAA Conference
Arlington, VA

Kudos & Thanks

To Whom it May Concern,

I am just writing to say thank you for the Tennessee Hope Lottery Scholarship money you have awarded me. I am so appreciative of this assistance in furthering my education. Thank you for this very much.

Sincerely,
R. Blakely
Milan, TN